

## Information and Resources

CHIP – Coalition for Homelessness  
Intervention and Prevention  
[www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org)  
(317) 630-0853

National Center for Homeless  
Education (NCHE)  
[nche.ed.gov](http://nche.ed.gov) (800) 308-2145

National Association for the  
Education of Homeless Children and  
Youth  
(NAEHCY)  
[www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org) • (866) 862-2562

National Law Center on Homelessness  
and Poverty  
[www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org) • (202) 638-2535

U.S. Department of Education  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)  
(800) USA-LEARN • (800) 872-5327  
(Toll Free)

## Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth INEHCY

Charie Jones State Coordinator  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program  
Office of Student Services  
Indiana Dept. of Education  
100 N. Senate Avenue, Suite N800  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Office: 317.233.0957  
Office Hours: 7:30am-4:00pm

E-mail: [McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov](mailto:McKinneyVentoPOC@doe.in.gov)

Website: [https://www.in.gov/doe/home/  
mckinney-vento-homeless-children-and-  
youth-program/](https://www.in.gov/doe/home/mckinney-vento-homeless-children-and-youth-program/)

### Homeless Liaison Contact Information

Mr. John Boyer  
[jboyer@cabear.doe.k12.in.us](mailto:jboyer@cabear.doe.k12.in.us)  
(765)-345-5455

1 Panther Trail  
Knightstown, IN 46148

## A Parent's Guide to the Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness



[www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov)

## The Rights of Homeless Parents and their Children

### Your child has the right to:

- ▶ Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there;
- ▶ Stay in the school that he or she was attending before becoming homeless or the school he or she last attended, if that is your choice and best interest of the child;
- ▶ Enroll in school immediately, even if you do not have all the paperwork, such as your child's school or medical records;
- ▶ Access the same special programs and services that are provided to other children, including special education, migrant education and vocational education;
- ▶ Receive the same public education that is provided to other children, including preschool. (Your child cannot be separated from the mainstream school environment because he or she is homeless. He or she cannot be segregated in a separate school, separate programs within a school or separate settings within a school).

If your child is assigned to a school not of your choosing, the school district must explain its decision in writing.

You have the right to appeal the district's decision regarding the school to which your child has been assigned. Your child has the right to go to the school of your choice while the dispute is being resolved.

## If you move, you should...

- ▶ Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school;
- ▶ Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to the new situation;
- ▶ Tell the school the date you are leaving and start the transfer of your records;
- ▶ Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including:
  - ▶ An updated transcript;
  - ▶ The grade your child is in;
  - ▶ Any important medical information about your child's needs;
  - ▶ Scores your child on any standardized tests;
  - ▶ If possible, allow your child to say goodbye to friends and teachers.



## How you can help your child?

- ▶ Make sure your child attends school every day;
- ▶ Read to your child. Even a few minutes a day makes a difference;
- ▶ Make education a family priority;
- ▶ Help your child develop good study habits;
- ▶ Meet with your child's teachers and other school personnel.

## McKinney-Vento Program

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program was designed to make sure all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as children and youth who are not homeless. This includes preschool education.

State and local educational agencies are required to develop, review and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance and success in school that homeless children and youth may experience.

Local educational agencies also must provide homeless children and youth with the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held.

# Information for School-Age Youth

**You may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.**

**If you live in any of the following situations:**

- A shelter.
- A motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation.
- A car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station.
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

**As an eligible student you have the right to:**

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school or continue attending your school of origin (the school you attended when permanently housed or the school in which you were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.

*If the school district believes that the school selected is not in your best interest, the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.*

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your needs as a student.



***If you believe you may be eligible, contact one of the individuals below to find out what services and supports may be available.***



#### Local Contact

Mr. John Boyer  
jboyer@cabeard.k12.in.us  
(765) 345 - 5455

1 Panther Trail  
Knightstown, IN 46148

Charie Jones  
State Coordinator  
(317) 232-0957